

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The below-listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. As presented, amendments appear in claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 12, 16, 18 and 21. All other claims remain as originally presented.

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing device, A a method of ensuring proper licensing, comprising the ~~executable instructions~~ steps of:  
receiving a data file at the computing device;  
removing at least a portion of the data file at the computing device thereby preventing prevention a use associated with the data file;  
wrapping a license authentication set of executable instructions around the data file at the computing device;  
executing the license authentication set of executable instructions at the computing device to determine whether the data file is associated with a valid license; and  
at the computing device, restoring the removed portion of the data file if the valid license exists thereby making the data file available for use.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
preventing the data file from use if the valid license is not authenticated.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
notifying an owner at other than the computing device location if the data file does not have the valid license.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data file is a set of executable instructions.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data file is an MP3 music file.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
customizing the license authentication set of executable instructions based on a user license.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
providing the license authentication set of executable instructions to one or more application service providers wherein the license authentication set of executable instructions is customized based on one or more levels of service of the application service providers.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a licensed set of executable instructions, comprising the executable instructions of:

receiving a license set of executable instructions while a computing device housing the license set of executable instructions is in communication with one or more licensing computing devices;

executing the license set of executable instructions exclusively at the computing device to determine if the license set of executable instructions is associated with a valid license;

permitting the license set of executable instructions to further execute on the computing device if the valid license exists; and

preventing the license set of executable instructions from further executing on computing device if the valid license does not exist.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
executing the license set of executable instructions while the computing device is not in communication with one or more of the licensing computing devices.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the license set of executable instructions is associated with providing a least one of audio, image, and video data.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
exclusively at the computing device, removing at least a portion of the license set of executable instructions prior to executing the license set of executable instructions.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
exclusively at the computing device, restoring the removed portion of the license set of executable instructions only when the valid license exists.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the portion removed is associated with a dynamic linked library necessary for execution of the license set of executable instructions.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the removed portion is encrypted using public-private key technology.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the private key or public key resides within the license set of executable instructions.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
at other than the computing device location, notifying electronically a licensor of the license set of executable instructions if an attempt to execute the license set of executable instructions occurs at the computing device location without the valid license.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for validating data files on a stand alone computing device, comprising:

a wrapping set of executable instructions operable to be executed on the computing

device prior to using a data file on a the computing device, the wrapping set of executable instructions operable to remove a portion of the data file thereby preventing a use associated with the data file; and

a validation set of executable instructions on the computing device called by the wrapping set of executable instructions operable to permit the data file to be useable on the computing device if a valid license to use the data file exists on the computing device, usability of the data file including restoration of the removed portion of the data file.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the data file is an executable set of instructions.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the validation set of executable instructions operates while the computing device is not in communication with any external computing devices.

21. (Currently Amended) Functional data used to ensure proper licensing authority exists to use electronic data, the functional data comprising:

wrapping instruction data exclusively operable at a stand alone computing device to assemble electronic data including removal of a portion of the electronic data; and

validating instruction data operable at the computing device to determine whether a valid license permits use of the electronic data at the computing device and if so providing the assembled electronic data for use including restoration of the removed portion of the electronic data.